

Hamsters & Inkjet Printers

Inkjet printers come in as many different varieties as hamsters do. There are Epsoms, Lexmarks and HPs, just to name a few. They all have several things in common. They're cheap to buy, rather expensive to own, and not worth fixing when they break - sounds like a hamster.

Taking your inkjet to a repair shop is like taking your sick hamster to a vet. In most cases its cheaper to pitch it in the dumpster and buy a new one - a printer that is - hamsters you just feed to the local cats (just kidding). Most repair shops will not even touch an inkjet printer because of the gory mess they make when you open them up. The dried up excess ink inside can make an awful mess. Besides, an inexpensive printer may only cost about \$50 whereas it would cost much more than that to repair it. Not only that, most inkjet manufacturers don't even make or sell repair parts for their printers. They consider them disposable items designed to last, on average, about a year or two.

I know I've stated this before, but if you are refilling your own ink cartridges you're just asking for trouble. Those little boogers can get expensive at \$30 a pop, but if you refill your own and one of those leaks inside your printer, you'll be making a trip to the dumpster pretty soon. So how do you avoid buying a new printer every couple of years? If you like color - you don't. If most of your printing is black and white, you might want to invest in an inexpensive name-brand laser printer like a Hewlett-Packard. NEVER - EVER - EVER buy a cheap Brother or off-brand laser printer. The toner cartridges on these with usually cost more than the printer did when it was new. If \$300 for a new laser printer is a bit too high, consider a used one. A good used HP laser printer can usually be had for under \$150.00 either locally or on ebay.